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LETTERS OF ROBERT PLEASANTS, MERCHANT AT CURLES, 1772.

Virginia 1th mo. 11 1772

Dear Brother[1]

My last was of the 17th ult· p. Post since which Thy Favour of the same dated to our Co come to hand as also that dated the 23d 11 mo which I before inform'd thee was not come to hand. I am sorry to find by the first that Capt. Gilbert was not arived, and being inform'd that he saild from Hampton Road the 29th 11 mo two days before the Cold blustering weather we had the beginning of last mo. set in. I apprehend he must be enevitably lost; I observe however that the Insurance Order'd on that Vessel was effected tho at a very high premium; I wish thou had mention'd the sum, for tho' I did not perticularly order Insurance on the Estates of my own Wheat, Tommy Pleasants, tels me he had advised thee of the quantities in the same letter ordering Insurance for the Comp. & am in some expectations thou might (as hath heretofore been the case) have the whole interest cover'd without such perticular orders. I observe what thou says about the Plate, the price of which is certainly higher than I Expected; but its best that we rightly understand each other in time, for tho' I was willing to have bought it for the reasons before mention'd, yet I cannot think Plate of 15 or 16 old that have gone through such hands as that has, can be of equal value to new, I dont remember much of the waiter or Rim more than that one of the legs of the latter was broke, but the Coffee pot beside several bruses, hath the handle crack'd, so as probably it may not hold long, and must I apprehend in that number of years be considerably lighter & so certain I am that the price I offer'd was the full value that I should not agree to give it for any other of equal goodness, however as the Coffee pot is here, the difference in price between thee & me I dont

[1]The first instalment of the Letters of Robert Pleasants was in the April number, 1921, of the William and Mary Quarterly, 2d series.

value and conclude to keep it. Thou mentions debeting my acct for an error in casting the Rum sent me p. Barry but having examind that Invoice can find no Errors either in the cast or extending any part of that Invoice— The Boy, Bobby, mention'd to his Aunt of the name of Jamey, is the same who went to Richmd for letters for thee when last in Virg, and is a very handy sensible Boy. If my sister should conclud to take him and thou wilt agree to give him proper schooling and have him brought up to some Business by which he may be likely to get an honest lively hood, I have at present no objection to sending him the first sutable opertunity altho he is a very useful servant of his Size.

I shall take care to send the Hams & hominy by some sutable Operty towards the Spring or the first that offers after they are sufficiently cured.

With much Love to thee & thine I conclude

Thy affect· Bro.

R P

Curles 3d mo. 8, 1772.

Dear Mother

I wrote Bror, Jony the 17th 12 mo p. Post which I doubt not he would receive, but have not the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of a line from any one of my friends about W R, since I left that place nor have I heard a word respecting their welfair &c but altho this is a matter which gives me pain as I have so often earnestly requested it I must endeavor to reconcile my self to it and not burthen my Friends with my uneasiness— My Dear Nancy is well & hath been so for the most part of the time she hath been here and now goes to school in one of my Houses close by being my self now moved to the place where my Dr. Decd. Father lived—I am at present in a very poor state of Health and have been so most part of the winter this with the care necessary towards the accommodation of our Friends at the Yearly Meeting, & some other affairs. will (I expect) effectually prevent my being at W R sooner than the fall. This is intended by our Worthy Friends Timothy Davis & Compn. whose services as a minister of the Gospel hath been very agreeable & acceptable to Friends in general this way. I

am with much love & affection to all my Friends at W. R. The Iron Work over South River, not forgeting Bror. Joney & Henry and am

Thy obliged & affect son in law
R P

To Ann Thomas

Curls 3d mo. 8. 1772.

My Dear Son

My last was of the 11th 1st month p. Post which I hope thou hast recd., since which thine of the 14th same month is come to hand, by which I observe thy small Trunk, with the money & other Contents (among which were apr gold Buttons & divirs old Silver Buckles, besides other things of less value) were missing, Gilbert is since arived in Virginia tho' I have not yet seen him, he tels Tommy Pleasants that he never saw any thing of the small Trunk, but as I can prove the delivery & contenes of it, if I have an Operty of bringing a Suit against him in this County I intend to try whether or not he is liable for it, for I think It will not be doing Justice to the Public not to endevor at least to expose such viliny.

This is intended p. our Friend Patience Brayton who expects (in case she meets with no hinderance on acct. of the loss of her Horse) to be at the half yr meeting in Phila. and desire thou wilt write to me by Post or some other direct Operty to let me know, what progress thou hast made in the mathematics, and what time thou would incline to return home, I think it may be best for thee to come the first Operty after thou may have learn't the most useful Branches, but if no prospect of Compy should appear, I suppose Phil, would gladly take a trip up, to see his Friends there & to come down with thee in case an Operty by water should offer, however if there should be a prospect of any perticular service in thy longer stay, I shall endevor to aquiesce, altho I must say, if there is not almost a Certainty of that being the case, it would be much more agreeable to me that thou should return sometime this spring, of which I would have thee consult thy unkle. I have been very poorly most of this winter & continue in a bad state of health, but not so as to be much confin'd to the House, the rest of the family & our Frds this way are generally pretty well.

When thou does come down I would not have thee omit calling to see thy Grandmother & other Relations at B R it may be the only operty thou may ever have of doing so.

I desire thou wilt give my very kind Love to unkle & aunt Pemberton, Sammy & Sally Rhoads, Josey & Nancy Pemberton with any other of my kind Friends & acquaintances who may enquire after thy affect Father

R P

Curles 3 mo 8. 1772.

Dear Brother

I wrote thee of the 11th. 1 mo to which refer and have now to acknowledge the receipt of my acct. Curt. dated the 31st of same month as also that against our Fathers Estate which I have examined amd don't find any material Error except in My Cr. for Montgomerys Cargo, thou hast wholy omitted (as I suppose) alowing me anything for the purchase of Barl Flower, or the £ alow'd T & R Pleasants being 3d p. [?] I paid them more than was Charg'd in the Invoice, or £ 2.12 alow'd Montgomery for the screenings of a parcel of wheat purchais'd without cleaning to fill him up, it not being to be had on any other terms, these I suppose were overlook'd by thee, for as I find thou hast alow'd me no more than 2£ p. b. for the purchase of thy part of the wheat, I can't suppose thou meant to give me short Cr. on the Value of the Cargo as well as to reduce the Commission one half, however if thou did advert to these articles in making out thy acct., and on second consideration thinks it is not reasionable to alow them, I shall not insist on it.

I observe what thou says about Insurance on the Effects onbd. the Industry Gilbert, but if the Insurance order'd in London should be effected, I suppose it will be done in thy own name, and if that is the Case I don't see how my property or that of the Estates can be benefitted by it, on this consideration I have deferred sending either Bill of Lading or Invoice until I hear further from thee depending that if either the Estate or myself are included in the policy or that any part of the Effects can be cover'd by the Insur-

ance thou order'd thou wilt give me timely advice to forward to thee what may be necessary.

This is intended p. our Friend Patience Brayton who expects to be at your half yr meeting & by the same operty I have wrote to Bobby to inform me what progress he hath made in his learning & to consult thee when it might be sutable for him to return, for if the prospect of improvement by his longer stay is not very considerable I should much desire his return this spring, and in case no compy by land should be likely to offer & [?] should be in Virg this Spring I make no doubt Phil would gladly go up in order to accompy him down, in that case Its likely I shall request thee to procure me a pair of Chaise Horses for them to ride down on.

R P

Virginia 3mo. 23d 1772.

Dear Brother

The day after I wrote thee p. our Friend Patience Brayton, I recd thy acceptable letter of 17th 1st mo. to which this is intended as a reply.

Thou very Justly observes that Bannister has had the use of the money due to our Fathers Estate long enough, but as by the bond he has the priviledge to keep it yet longer on interest, there is no insisting on its being discharg'd before the 12th mo Next, nor can I see at present how the money due to the Widdow Harrison can be paid before that time. The Debts due from our Fathers Estate are not considerable, as far as I know at present, his debts in this country did not exceed £ 100, nor in England much (if any) above £ 300 Ster. beside a debt due to our Brothers Estate for Household Furniture &c which he directed not to be sold & took on himself at the appraismt. In Order to discharge the first, I suppose the whole Crop of Tob. will not be more than sufficient, by reason of the loss therein sustain'd by the fresh, and as Hunt has for some time had a Judgmt agt. our Brors. Estate for a Debt due from Pleasants & Robinson, in order to keep the Estate from being sold by Exc. it is absolutely necessary to apply the first moneys which can be collected from the Debts in Cumberland towards the Discharge of that Debt. but as to giving thee an estimate of the

debts due to the Estate so as to be any ways exact, its altogether out of my power tho' I do suppose there may be something like £ 1000, exclusive of the Cumbd debts, the amount of which I can at present give no guess, for tho' I was up in the 1st month and had a list of them taken, I was taken sick & return'd without casting it up, or making any calculation of the amount of those that there may be a probability of getting some time or other, but this is beyond a doubt, that the greatest part are bad, however if my health permit I do intend up again shortly, after which, its probable I may form some better Judgment of those affairs. I have not been unmindful of thy request respecting hams & hominy, but for want of an Opertunity they could not be sent but, as it now groes late & no certanty of a better, I intend sending them with this to the Care of John Greenwood at Norfolk, and hope they will get safe to hand & prove acceptable. I am pleas'd to hear that Bobby applies himself so well to learning, and hope his next will inform me that he is in readiness to return, when (as I mention'd before if no sutable Company should be likely to offer for him to come down with, I propose sending Phill, who seems very desirous to see his Frds once more in Phila, when, if thou & my Sister concludes to take the Boy, it might be sutable time to send him up in case any operty by water should offer.

My children Join me in love to thee, their Aunt Brother & Cousins & am Thy Affect. Bror.

R P

P S I propose sending Sammy
to Phila. the first sutable Opery.

Curles 3mo 23d. 1772.

Dear Bobby

Since writing thee of the 8th Inst. p. our Friend Patience Brayton I have recd thy letter dated the 28th 1st month and am well pleased at the account thou gives of thy application to learning, & keeping out of all loose & unprofitable company, I greatly desire thou may so improve thy time, as that thou may have to reflect with sattisfaction on the time spent in thy youthful days, which thou can never do without due attention to the dictates of the

Divine Principle whereby thy duty is made manifest & as it is observed, will make thee happy in thyself & truly useful in the Creation. I am very desirous thou should return as soon as thou & thy unkle may think it may be proper and a sutable operty offers, however if none such should present I intend sending up Phil as before intimated in order to come down with thee. Thy sisters are both poorly at present with Colds & feavers, but as to myself I seem better than when I last wrote thee and hope shall continue mending having lost some blood & Undergone some evacuations which seem to have been of service to me, and am Dr. Child Thy affect. Father

R P

Virginia 5 mo 10 1772.

Respected Friend

Thy letter dated the 12th 2 mo. last inclosing a power of att. I recd. but lately, to which this is intended as an answer; and may advise that as thy Bror. James's Effects were in a wasting situation my son in Law & Partner Thos. Pleasants Junr. took the administration thereon (he being the largest creditor) before the rect. of thy letter in order to Secure what little Estate there was which sold for £ of which I suppose the Debts may take about £ he also undertook to rent the plantation for the present year thinking something better than nothing, it is in very bad order and was then late in the season so that he could get but 40/ for it. I highly approve thy generous intention of giving James's Children the residue of the Estate after paying his Debt to thee, and am very willg to act for thee or them in the best manner I am capable.

I believe if thou art dispos'd to sell the land the Int. of the money it would fetch, would exceed the Rents of it, more expecially, if thou should not choose to give a lease on it for a term of years, for as it is in very bad order, held only for 50 Acres, & but little timber of any kind on it, I suppose it would not rent from yr to yr for more than about £ 3. but if thou should choose to dispose of it & comes down from the yearly meeting in Phila. I will render thee any assistance in my power, or if thou should

conclude to do it by a power of Attorney, I suppose thou might get Capt. John Hylton of New York & some of his men to witness it, who frequently trade up this River from thence; there must be three witnesses at least. I believe from the best information I have recd James Died of an inflamitary disorder, but at present can't inform thee of the day of the month; the County's name is Henrico, the Land lays about one mile & half from James River, but some distance from any Town.

I am Respectfully Thy assured Friend

R P

To John Hallock West Chester County
Province of N. York.

Virginia 5 mo 10 1772.

Dear Brother

I wrote thee a few lines the 5th Instant relative to and at the request of Roger Atkinson, and had only time then to acknowledge the rect of thy acceptable letter p. my son, & just hint that I intended sending up Sammy Pleasants in Compy with my sister Sukey, as fare as Bush River; This is now intended by him as a reply to thy last, and may inform thee that I have wrote my Bror Isaac & Jas. Webster to hire some person to accompany Sammy up to Phila., which if they have an opertunity of doing soon after his geting to that place, he may ride up the mare Bobby left there, & she may be return'd by the same messenger in time to be sent down to Virga. at sister Sukeys return, but if that can't be done nor a man & Horses can't be procur'd at B River to convey him from thence, he must there wait until thou can send for him, or an opertunity does offer of his getting up, I have delivered him £
for his expences up & deliver'd him—seald up, towards paying seald up, towards paying the Ball. I now owe thee, or any emediate expence thou may be at for Sammy, for as I had but short notice, he is not so well provided as otherwise he might have been for such a journey.

Thou may depend the money due to the Widdow Harrison shall be remitted as soon as I may be inabled either by Collection, or Crops of the Estate to do it and hope her Circumstances are not

such as to suffer any great inconvenience for the want of it for that time.

It is with great pleasure I observe what thou says respecting my sons conduct while under thy care & think my self under great obligations to thee & my Sister for your care of & kindness to him as well as thy kind wishes for his good & my sattisfaction, and if he should be prudent enough to make a right use of the operty he has had of improvement in that place you will have the sattisfaction to think you were instrumental therein altho' it may not be in my power to make aminds sutable to the favour received therein.

Bobby tels me that Gilbert embaseled part of the wheat saved from the wrack, if it is so, & any proof can be made of it, I request thou would procure and forward it p. first opertunity; for as I believe him to be a villain, I have order'd him to be sued, in hopes if I dont get my money, I may at least expose his villany & put it out of his power to act such another part where he is known. I must refer thee to T P for an answer to what thou says about the money recd of Mease & Caldwell, as well as the sales of the goods consign'd to us Hoggs note Eckarts order on Syme, for tho' he told my son he would pay the corn, there is yet no price fixd or any agreemt about it, but suppose that will be done at the present meeting in Wmburg, for the Court is over.

The £3 Bill sent by Bobby is Bad & is now return'd inclos'd agreeable to thy request. I can't at present inform thee the amt of Hunts Judgmt agt Pleasants & Robinson, but think it may be about £400 Ster. but know of no other demand he has agt. any of our Family. I decline writing again to Jas. Pemberton about the insurance, for as he never favour'd me with an answer to my former on that subject, I conclude Hunt is a favourite, & the Business disagreeable so I suppose I must rest sattisfied without it, but this I must say & believe, that if Hunt was so desirous to clear up his conduct as he has on another ocasion, that alone might have induced him to have done it without the promises he made that it should be done. I thought I had desired thy acceptance of the Hams, I never thought of making a Charge of them, and wish they

may prove good, but am doubtful they are not equal to what we used to have·

I am with much love & affectn. to thee my Sister & the Childn.

Thy Frd & Bror

R P

P. S. I am indebted to Anty Benizet 20/
for Books which please to pay.
I am in want of a Mehogany Table to suit the one thou sent p. Montgomery & request it may be sent p. first opertunity it is square and wants about aqr of an inch of 4 feet in length & when the leaves are up measures near 3 feet 8 In. wide & is 2 feet 4½ high with Claw feet. please also to send a Mohany side board table & 1 droping do. also one Easy chair coverd with leather.

Virginia 5 mo 20th 1772.

Loving Brother

I am very much oblig'd to thee for accomodating my son with a Nagg to ride down to Virga. on, and as I purpose sending my Nephew Sammy Pleasants to Philada. I intend taking this opertunity in Company with Sister Susy as fare as Bush River, and to ride thy mare; this will occasion me to ask another favour which is, that in case there is no prospect of a pretty ready opertunity for him to get forward, that thou wilt write a line by Post, or any other direct operty to my Brother in Philad, to send for him, or hire a man & Horses to accompany him up, the expence of which my Brother will pay on Demand, or if a man & one Horse could be imediately provided so as the messenger might return before sister Susey sets out for Virga·, Sammy might ride up Bobby mare (if well of her lameness) and then if it can be contrived with any degree of convenience, I should be glad she could be sent down to Virga. when my Sister returns.

James Webster

Curles 5mo. 21th. 1772.

Dear Brother

I wrote thee pretty fully of the 10th Inst. intended p. my Nephew S P who was to have gone up as fare as Bush River in

Compy wth. Sukey Pleasants, but Just at the time she was to have taken her departure Cousin Robert was taken very Ill, which put a stop to her Journey; and tho' I have some thoughts yet of sending him as fare as James Brooks's in Compy with Thos. Pleasants & his famaly who propose seting out in expectation that he may have Compy to W R Meeting & from thence quite up to Phila. but as he is young & the way roundabout I am not fully determined whither or to send him then, or to wait in expectation of some Friends being down at our Yearly meeting, if he goes I propose sending that Letter yet by him, and therefore only propose at this time mentioning what may be most material & refer thee to the other for further perticulars.

Bobby tels me that Gilbert embasiled part of the cargo of wheat saved out of the Schooner Industry, if it is so, and any proof can be made of it, I request thou wilt furnish me with it as soon as possible, for as I apprehend he is a villain, I have order'd him to be sued in expectation that if I don't recover my Effects out of his hands, it may be a means of Exposing him, so as to put it out of his power to act the same part in future where he is known.

Curles. 6 mo. 13th 1772.

Dear Bror.

I wrote thee of the 10th 5 mo. last intended by my nephew Sammy Pleasants, who was to have accompany'd Sister Susey as fare Bush River on his way to Phila. but they were prevented by the Indisposition of Robt. Pleasants, who was taken Ill the very day they were to have set out, with a violent Pluracy or inflamitary fever, which terminated (as some think) in a galloping consumption, and put a period to his life the 7th Inst. about 3 o'clock in the morning the 27th day of his Illness, much regretted by most who knew him, but more expecially by our Dear Sister who seems almost inconsolable for her loss— indeed she hath much need, for he was an uncommon tender & affectionate Husband & Father, however I believe our Friends at B River may rely, that everything will be done in our power to endever to mittigate her grief and serve her & the Children in every needfull matter, but If thou with one of our Sisters could come down & stay a while with her, it might

contribute greatly to her Comf. & sattisfaction. This intelegence I thought proper to communicate knowing by experience, that tho' advices of this sort must be afflicting yet it is a sattisfaction to be acquainted with every state & situation of those we Love, & in whose welfare we are interested; and Dear Bror. since we find that nothing (not even virtue itself) is a defence from the Stroke of Death, and the time of his approach to each of our tabernacles altogether uncertain, I greatly desire that every day which we may in Mercy be continued on the stage of life, may be improved to the glory of our Creator, & our own eternal felicity, which are inseperable. I recd thy acceptable letter dated the 28th and observed that thou hast been in a poor state of health for many months past but that thou wert then Geting the better of it, which I rejoice to hear, & may advise that I too have had but few well days together since last fall, & some part of the time been very Ill; I am still poorly, but desire patiently to submit to the will of Providence who knows best what is best & sometimes Permits afflictions as Blessings in disguise. I am with much love & affect. to every Branch of the family.

Thy Frnd. & Bror.

R P

Curles 8 mo. 3d 1772.

Dear Brother

Having none of thy Favours unanswer'd, this is intended to accompany 206 Bushl. very fine new wheat, & 16¼ Bushl. Old p. our Schooner Peggy, Geo. Crumbie Master, who I wish may have a safe & quick passage; for tho' we have taken the precaution of shiping the new wheat in sacks, & it appears to be in uncommon fine Order for the time, yet it may probably get warm if it should continue long on board: It was with inconvenience we could get it ready so soon, but a view of Employing our new Vessel, and in hope of geting the prices lately going for wheat in Phila. we have exerted our selves in her dispatch and doubt not thy care in the disposal of it to the best prices your Market will afford, our Millers now give 5/ this Currency but whether those prices will continue or not must depent on the demand from abroad. If the

furniture I requested thee some time ago to procure for me should not be ship'd before the rect. of this I reqt. thou wilt send it by return of Capt. Crumbie and if it should be convenient to procure me apr. of good Chaise Horses for abt. 50, or £ 60. price not old, & such as thou thinks would suit me, I request thou would send them also, with the few articles— mention'd below, and in case my remittance p· this vessel should not be sufficient to pay the Ball. I owe thee, and the Cost of the Articles now Order'd, I expect if this vessel returns safe and the prospect of a Wheat market should be encouraging, she will emediately load again for Phila. & in that case shall make up all deficiency, on my Own Acct., & probably make a Considerable remittance on acct. of the Estate.

I am waiting with impatience for a sutable opertunity of sending Sammy, and have been for some time in Expectation that Joney Webster or some of our Friends from B River would be down, in that case I intended to have sent him up that way for tho he is not willing to go with Capt. Crumbie & the vessel being new I don't choose to force him contrary to his inclinations, least some accident might happen; but in case no sutable one should offer sooner, I intend taking him up with me to West River in the 9 or 10th month in case my own health & that of my Family will admit my going up, as at present I intend with my Daughr. Nancy, but whither I may have the pleasure of seeing my bror. sister and children in Phila. is uncertain tho' I much desire but if I find that can't be conveniently accomplish'd would thou meet me at W River.

I have sent p. Capt. Crumbie a large Bible which I request thou wilt get Bound & (if it can be done in time) to be returned by him the Bad £ 3 Bill which I intended to have sent p. Sammy is now inclos'd as also Thos. Elsdons note, which thou sent inclos'd to me some time ago for Richd· Randolph, and which he desired me to return to thee & inform, that he is a man who married a nurse that Col. Byrd had from Phila., & now lives near or in the City, & may be known by applying to some one of the Willing Family and request thou wilt endever to get the money. Roger Atkinson writes thee p. this Operty. & no doubt will inform thee that in depend-

ance of thy geting Bills of Exch. on Interest to the amt. of 2000 £ Ster. for him he hath goth the money here, & will I dare say be a great disappointment if they cannot be had to come by return of our Schooner; his Bonds with sufficient Security being Executed, no doubt he has inclos'd to thee. Inclos'd I send thee Capt. Crumbie's rect. for 12 half Jos. which pass to the Cr. of my acct.

R P

Goods to be sent from Phila·
3 doz Calf skins 2 doz of which black'd on the Flesh side & 1 doz. on the grain.
3 doz pr. womens woodden heals.
6 Dutch grass syths & 6 whitstones for do.
1 Barl. good Muscavado sugar
1 do. good Jamaica Spirits. 12 Chocalate
2 doz Antony Benizets Treateses, & request thou wilt pay him for 1 doz already received.

Virga. 8 mo. 4 1772.

Esteemed Friends

I was sorry to hear of Capt· Montgomery Miscarriage, as well on acct. of the people, as those concerned in the Vessel & Cargo, but hope your interest was fully Cover'd; it was a fine Cargo of wheat, & should have been glad it had got safe to a sutable Market. however if the first attempt hath not discouraged your Speculation in the same way, we have a Crop of Wheat now housed, which I apprehend it equal both in quantity & quality to any ever made in this Colony, a sample of which you may see by applying to my Brother, to whom my self & Compy. have ship'd a few hundred Bushls. as a tryal to a forward Market in your City. At present the price seem as if it would break high on acct. of the demand for Flour, the millers agree to give 5/ until the 1st of 9th mo. but whither that may be the general market is at present uncertain; If you should at any time incline to be further adventurers in this or any other article of our Country produce our Situation puts it in our power to serve you as well on as good terms as any House in the Province, and be assured the utmost attention

will be observed in the Execution of any Orders you may intrust with my self & Co for whom I am

Your Assured & Respectful Frd.

R P & Co.

To James & Drinker

Virga. 8 mo; 4 1772.

Dear Sister

I have long wished, & indeed had some expectation of being favour'd with a few lines from thee, but as I must confes I have been too deficient my self in writing to thee, I have not so much room to complain, but must say, whenever thou canst find leisure & inclination thy letters will be perticularly acceptable, more especially if they convey an account of thine my Bror. & the Dear Children's welfair, which I much desire, & had I my self a sufficient degree of health & could accomplish it with any degree of convenience I would chearfully undertake a Journey to Phila. the ensuing fall in order to enjoy the greater sattisfaction of being an eye witness thereof, but tho I find my self lately ruther better, I have long been in a very poore state of health & part of the time very Ill so as scarcely to expect a recovery, beside this I have a large family to care for, & the old woman who hath lived with me for some years in quality of a House Keeper— proposes to leave me this fall, but that indeed ought to be inducement to exert my self in endevering to supply her place with another and I know no place that abounds more with good ones than Phila. were they not so attach'd to the place as not easily to be enduced to leave it.

However I must acknowledge the great kindness of my good Friends towards the most near & dear part, that of my Children, and perticularly thine to my son & Daughter which I shall ever remember with gratitude. Sister Langly & children are well & is now on a Visit to us at Curles, & have some expectation of seeing Sister Atkinson here in a few days, poor Sister Briggs is in much affliction for the loss of her Daughter Nancy as is poor Sukey for that of an uncommon kind & affect. Husband R P whose Death I suppose thou some time ago heard of. I desire my very kind love may be acceptable to unkle & aunt Pemberton with whom I

sincerely sympathise for their late great loss of a hopeful son, be pleas'd also to remember me very affectionately to cousin Jony & Nancy also Sammy & Sally Roads and am thy very oblig'd & affect. Bror.

R P

I have deliver'd into Capt. Crumbies care a p. of Tabby, which being of a pretty good Colour, I desire thy acceptance of it for a Goun.

Curles 10 mo. 1st 1772.

Dear Brother.

Thy Favour of the 28th 8 mo. p· Capt. Crumbie I recd. together with the furniture & other articles ship'd me p. the schooner, the Horses only excepted, which it seems were lost from of the Deck in a hard gale of wind he met with soon after he left the Capes of Delaware. This, beside the loss, is a considerable disappointment to me, they being intended for my northern Journey, & will I apprehend effectually deprive me of the pleasure I some times flattered my self with of seeing my Friends in Phila. this fall, nor can I help blaiming the Capt. seeing he had room and might with so much ease & safety have brought them in the hold. The furniture I find comes high from Phila. more so than I expected, and by some means or other the workman has made a mistake in the length of the large table being about three inches shorter than the directions which was given exactly to fitt one I had before which purpose this will not answer for that reason I should have inclined to have return'd it p. the schooner was I certain the Joiner would have chang'd it as it is I shall endever to fitt it & then order another of the right size or get one here. The Table thou sent for sale met with an accident & got the Cross piece below broke, and am doubtful it will be a dul article at a price nearly what mine is Charg'd at not being (as I think) a handsom piece of Furniture. Inclos'd is Bill of Lading for 300 Bush. wheat which I wish safe & to a good Market, the price here continues to be 5/ nor do I expect it will fall, it is however remarkably good in quality. Its uncertain at present what further quantity I may ship to Phila. this year. I hope however this may be fully

sufficient to Ballance my acct. with thee after being Charg'd with the Coffee pot which by thy last acct. was not done, but if it should be otherwise, a further remittance shall be made sufficient to do it. I also propose to make a further remittance sometime this fall on acct. of the Estate either in wheat or Bills. Our Cousin John Pleasants intend going in the Schooner to Phila. and have endeverd to prevail on Sammy to accompany him, but as he seems very averse to it and chooses to go with me by land I am loth to force him for fear of some Accident, in that case I should both blame my self & be blamed by others, to which I desire to give no Just occasion for. however if I should find it impracticable my self to go as fare as Phila, I intend to send a Servant up with him, for I am very sencible he is loosing time, & am as anxtious to get him up as thou canst be, being fully convinced it may be more to his advantage than anything in my power to do for him, provided he makes the proper use of the opertunity for his improvement. I propose to send my Boy Jamey, and with him a Certificate for it is my intention to give him his freedom at the age of twenty seven years; he is now about 14, and is to serve thee on the terms thou proposes, Seven years, or in case of misbehaviour to have the liberty of returning him, or rather if it can be done, to put him to a Trade there until he is 21 yrs. of age, but I have little doubt but he will answer thy purpose as well as any Boy of his colour that I know. The Expressions of that great good Man S. Fothergill whose removal I was truly concern'd to hear, were not inclos'd in thy last as thou intended, & hope thou wilt send them p. next operty. for every thing that came from him I doubt not was worthy attention more especially at such an awful period and will be perticularly acceptable to me.

Our monthly meeting having appointed two Friends to Collect the most material expresions of our Dr. Father in his last Illness by way of Testimony which I expect will be soon accomplished, when it is I propose sending a Copy thereof. I shall want a few articles p. return of the Schooner an acct. of which is below which please to send me, if the shoes for Nancy are not sent before the rect. of this, its probable it might be best when an operty. offers to send them to W River, as its probable she may be gone up

before this Vessel comes back; the shoes thou sent me were too small one size too short, & too low in the instep, shall therefore want two other pare p. Capt. Crumbie.

I suppose E. S. is gone to Cumberl. to order Execution agt. my Bror. Estate for Hunt's Debt. for it seems he is determ'd to wait no longer, and Jas· Pleasants neglect or bad Success has disabled me from payt. more than £ 175 beside an agreement of Tommy Pleasants for £ 100 ster. in consequence of an order given by Jas. Pleasants on Jas. Lyle to the last court wch they agreed to pay at the Octo. Court, beside these sums I suppose there will be a Ball. of upwards of £ 250 due on that Judgmt & at present know not how it will be paid except it be by an order on thee for part of the purchase of wheat for Holden, or can be got on Int. I don't care the Estate should be sold, and have given directions in case of an Execut. to replevy wch will 3 months longer time.

1 Ton Bar Iron, sutable for Country work, such as Waggons, Hoes, Axes
1 womans Black Satten Bonnet with a Hood
1 Girls ————————do.————
1 doz. Setts fann Riddles
2 pr. Shoes for my own use.
1 pr. good leather Breeches to measure
1 Bush· Flax Seed. R P

To all people to whom these presents shall come.

I Robert Pleasants of Henrico County in the Colony of Virg. Merch. Send Greeting, Know ye that I the said Robert Pleasants for divers good Causes and valuable Considerations me thereunto moving and more especially for & in consideration of the sum of five shillings lawful money of the Said Colony to me in hand paid by my Negro Boy Slave James, The Receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge Have Manumited remised and released, and by these presents Do manumite remise & release unto the said Negro Boy James all his servitude from hence forth to acrue, all my Estate Right Title and Interest whatsoever of in and to the said Negro Boy; And I do declare that it shall not be lawfull for either my self my Heirs Exect. administrs. or assigns or any other person or

persons whatsoever to deprive the Said Negro Boy of the full free & uninterrupted enjoymt. of his liberty, but that he shall possess & enjoy the same as full as any other person who hath never been in Bondage Witness my hand & Seal this 8th day of Octo. 1772.

Robt. Pleasants

Sealed & deliver'd
in presence of

Curles 10 mo. 1, 1772

Respd. Friend[2]

I wrote thee of the 10th 5 mo. last acknowledgd the rect. of thy letter dated the 12th 2d mo., and advising, that my Son in Law Thos. Pleasants had administer'd on thy Bror. James's Estate, had rented out the land for 40/ the present year, discribing the situation thereof, & giving a tender of any service, which may be in my power for thee or the Children; since which I have received thine dated the 14th 5 mo. to which this is intended as a reply. I have supplied the Children with some necessaries, and shall continue to do so as fare as the personal Estate & rents of the land will amot. or until thou gives further directions.

The names & ages of the Children I now send thee below and am inform'd that James died on the 3d day of the week and 12th of the 12th month 1771, of an inflametary or pluritic disorder. The name of the Children's mother is Rachel Liptrott. I am pleas'd to hear of Christion Fritts, I should be glad to hear of his being in a way to do well in every respect, he conducted himself much to his Masters sattisfaction while in this Country, be pleased to Remember me to him, & am respectfully

Thy Friend
Robt. Pleasants

Martha born the 31st 5 mo. 1768
Pheby Do.....7.. 6 ... 1770.

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[2]Probably written to John Hallock.